

February 28, 2011

Position on Bill #6420 Prohibiting School Districts from Charging Universal, Non- Refundable Fees.

I would like to thank the committee for allowing me to testify on Bill 6420 Prohibiting School Districts from Charging Universal, Non- Refundable Fees.

I'd like to start with a quick story. On Tuesday, November 16th, 2010, my son phoned me at home very distressed. He told me that he was not given his report card because we owed money to the school. I asked him if he had a library book, or if he had charged lunches, or anything, and he said no.

I subsequently called the school and was told that he owed an activity fee. As my son does not belong to a sports team or any other club that I knew of, I asked what activity was he involved in? To my surprise, the response was Student Council. I was informed that all information on activity fees was in the student handbook. I asked to speak with the Principal, and was given his voice mail. I told him that I thought charging fees for groups who are working for the benefit of their community, did not use any materials or resources was wrong. And that holding report cards for activity fees was worse still. If a student hasn't paid an activity fee, then they shouldn't be allowed to participate in the activity. They certainly shouldn't be punished holding their grades and making them student feel as though they have done something wrong. I wasn't even sure how that could be legal? In addition, I really had difficulty understanding how they could charge an activity fee to a student who was elected to the position by their peers, and spent their lunch, and free period for the betterment of their graduating class and school.

After my rant to the principal, I began to really think about the implications of the activity fees, and that is when I contacted Representative Lesser, to be sure that he was aware of the policy in district 13.

One of the complaints I often hear about today's youth is that they are not involved and are too self absorbed. Being a part of a club that addresses issues that are much bigger then one's self should be applauded and encouraged. Ecology club, Read and Lead, Helping Hands, and the Scholarship committee as well as many others, are benefits to the school and community, not liabilities. These clubs are building blocks for developing involved citizens who see themselves are part of a bigger solution. By adopting a pay to participate mentality, we are sending the wrong message to our youth. In these times, more than ever, our country is relying heavily on the hard work and generosity of volunteers. I know that in our neighboring town of Wallingford, some hard budget decisions have lead to a cut in a full time paid paramedic position. Who will absorb the loss? Luckily we still have volunteer fire departments in our state. Our youth are our future...let's hope they will continue to participate in their communities.

I have attached the list of clubs and activities that have fees attached. Please pay particular attention to those highlighted in yellow. Although I am most concerned about clubs that do not require additional resources and are a benefit to the community I must admit that even in the case of athletic teams I wonder if fees should be charged, as are faced with the realization that childhood obesity is also a huge obstacle.

As an aside...they also charge the students to park. Since our taxes pay for the parking lot and the upkeep of the school, I don't see how that is right either.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy Beckert

COGINCHAUG REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

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[Program of Studies](#)

[Site Plan](#)

[Student Activities](#)

[WeatherNet](#)

For CRHS Students

This page contains information that many students at Coginchaug will find useful. Should a student have a suggestion of something that might be helpful and available here, please let the staff in the Main Office know! Thank you!




Activity Fee

All students at Coginchaug who choose to participate in an activity (club, honor society, sport, etc.) are required to pay a Student Activity Fee of \$40.00. This fee is due before participation begins. (Student athletes are reminded that this fee is due before practice begins.) For a complete listing of activities click on Activity Fee above.

Parking Fee

All students must pay an annual \$25.00 parking fee when registering their vehicle to drive and obtain a permit to park in the student parking lot. Students are required to bring their driver license and car registration for the primary vehicle that will be driven to school. One transferable permit will be issued per driver. Students will be charged a replacement fee of \$5.00 for lost or stolen permits. For additional information on parking click on Parking Fee above.

 Student Loans of Money

STUDENT ACTIVITY FEE for SY10-11

All students at Coginchaug who choose to participate in an activity (club, honor society, sport, etc.) are required to pay a Student Activity Fee of \$40.00.

This fee is due before participation begins.

Checks should be made payable to CRHS Activity Account.

Please Note: Fee is paid only once per school year for participation in the following activities:

SCHEDULE of ACTIVITIES

ATHLETICS All Sports including Cheerleading
Ted Lombardo, Athletic Director

ACTIVITY – Advisor

Class Councils:

Class of 2011	Erika Anderson
Class of 2012	Tara Amatrudo
Class of 2013	Christen Bertz & Matt Thompson
Class of 2014	Kari Kuehnle
AFS	Tara Amatrudo
Art Service	Jan Wenzel
Read & Lead (Cadet Teachers)	Rebecca Anderson
Campus Store	Ted Lombardo & Susan Wagemaker
Diversity Club	Tara Amatrudo
Environmental Club	Susan Michael
EDGE (Youth Leadership)	Rebecca Anderson & Christen Bertz
French Honor Society	Jacqueline Lejoly Hendricks
Future Business Leaders	
Of America	Susan Wagemaker
Helping Hands	Robin Fox
High School Bowl	Michael Klimas & Kate Martino
Junior Classical League	Mary Sersanti
Mentor Program	Kathy Bottini
Model United Nations	Julie Selberg & Kathy Zygmunt
Musical Activity (Pep Band)	Dean Coutsouridis
Musical Activity (a cappella group)	N/A
Musical Production	Producer, John De Meo
National Honor Society	Donna Mattei
Newspaper	Nate Fisher & Stephanie Wilcox
Oceanography (Ocean Bowl)	Lorrie Martin
Scholarship Committee	Open
School Council	Kate Martino
Spanish Honor Society	Nancy Alberico
TV Broadcast Club	Robin Fox
Yearbook	Candy Brickley

STUDENT PARKING for SY10-11

All students must pay an annual \$25.00 parking fee when registering their vehicle to drive and obtain a permit to park in the student parking lot. Students are required to bring their driver license and car registration for the primary vehicle that will be driven to school. One transferable permit will be issued per driver. Students will be charged a replacement fee of \$5.00 for lost or stolen permits.

Student Parking Information

Where can I park?

- Due to the current building project, there will be limitations on how many student parking permits are available this fall, as well as temporary restrictions on student parking based on the requirements of the project. Once the project is completed, both the quality and quantity of student parking will be greatly improved.
- Students can park in the large lot at the end of the lane. The parking spaces closest to the school should be left for Seniors, but the school will not make specific parking space assignments. *Seniors only* may also park in the last row of the parking lot between the cafeteria and the soccer field/track.
- The first three rows of the parking lot between the cafeteria and the soccer field are reserved for faculty, staff, and visitors during the school day.
- Students are permitted to park in the lot between the school and the soccer field after 2:30 as long as they park within the marked spaces.
- *No-one is to park on or beside sidewalks or grass areas during or after the school day.*

How do I get a parking permit?

- Parking on campus is a privilege, and parking permits are required. Permits must be visibly displayed on the rear-view mirror of any car parked in the parking lot. Seniors will get first priority for parking permits, and Juniors will come next (there are enough parking spaces to accommodate at least this many cars).
- The Board of Education has a \$25 fee for student parking permits. This fee must be paid before a parking permit may be issued.
- *Parking permits will not be issued to students with outstanding debts to the school.*
- A \$5 replacement fee will be charged for lost parking permits.
- Parking permits can be obtained in the main office during X Block and lunches. Students need to bring their parking fee, driver's license, and car registration when signing up for a parking permit.
- *All cars must display a valid parking permit to park at CRHS.*

What happens if I violate the terms of the parking agreement?

- Students who park without a permit, do not display their permit, or park in areas that are not permitted will receive the following consequences:
 - First offense: Warning and parental notification.
 - Second offense: Parental notification, administrative detention and/or fine.
 - Third offense: Parental notification, loss of driving privilege for a length to be determined based on the specific nature of the offense, and/or detention/fine.
- Students who repeatedly violate the parking agreement or who drive recklessly or discourteously may face more serious consequences.

Drive safely, and have a great year!

Mr. Hauser and Mr. Bodner

Student Signature

Date

Student Name (Print)

Parent Signature

Date